

December 21, 2000

TO: Regional Administrators

FROM: Dave Langenes  
Office of Operations Support  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

SUBJECT: SSI INCREASES, CLIENT PARTICIPATION, AND THE INCOME STANDARD  
FOR THE CAP WAIVER

This memorandum provides information on:

- 1) Changes in client participation;
- 2) The new SSI payment standards;
- 3) group homes that have a non-staff rate which is less than the SSI payment standard minus the allowance for client clothing and personal incidentals (CPI)-Attachment A and Attachment B;
- 4) client participation for the spouses of individuals on the CAP Waiver;
- 5) the new income standard for the CAP Waiver;
- 6) the basic rate(s) and participation for individuals living in adult family homes (AFHs) and receiving Medicaid Personal Care (Attachment C); and
- 7) the basic rate(s) and participation for individuals living in adult residential centers (ARCs) and receiving Medicaid Personal Care (Attachment D).

**Please share it with your staff.**

## **I. Changes in Client Participation**

As a result of changes in the SSI payment standards and payment rates, SSPS authorizations for facility-based residential (e.g., adult family homes, adult residential centers, group homes) Regional Administrators

payments for many individuals will need to be adjusted to reflect a higher client contribution towards the cost of room and board.

**Due to the variability in the rates, no transaction generator for SSPS Code 7215 will be run. All adjustments to participation will have to be made manually by regional staff.**

## **II. New SSI Payment Standards**

The following Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment standards are effective for payments made for the month of January 2001.

Combined with the State Supplement, the new SSI payment standard(s) will be:

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Couple**</u>	<u>Couple***</u>
Area I*	\$ 555.90	\$ 815.90	\$696.10
Area II	\$ 535.45	\$ 796.00	\$666.15

\*Consists of King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties.

\*\*When both are eligible for SSI.

\*\*\*With ineligible spouse.

The CPI **remains** at \$38.84 for SSI clients and \$58.84 (i.e., \$38.84 + \$20.00) for individuals who receive SSA only.

## **III. Participation for Group Homes-Attachment A and Attachment B**

Attachment A is the list of large group homes whose non-staff (i.e., room and board) rate in CY2000 will be less than the standard participation (i.e., SSI - \$38.84) for a SSI recipient. Use Attachment A to compute participation for individuals living in those group homes. To facilitate authorizing payments for multiple (e.g., 6, 12) months, Attachment A includes a column with the non-staff rate for a 30.4-day month.

All DDD clients who reside in the group homes listed in Attachment A should participate at the non-staff (room and board) rate, and their CPI/spending allowance plus room and board should total at least the SSI payment standard.

The division's participation policy does not allow all individuals who reside in the group homes listed in Attachment A to retain all income except for the cost of their room and board. Rather, it ensures that individuals retain (for personal expenses **and** to pay room and board) an amount at least equal to the SSI payment standard (assuming their earned and unearned income total at least the SSI payment standard).

Attachment B provides a general guide to participation for individuals residing in group homes, IMRs, and children in foster care (i.e., the Voluntary Placement Program).

#### **IV. Participation Policy for the Spouses of Individuals on the CAP Waiver**

The participation policy for the spouses of individuals on the CAP Waiver is the Medically Needy Income Level (MNIL). The maximum amount of his/her income that a CAP Waiver client may allocate to his/her spouse each month during CY 2000 is \$555.90.

#### **V. New Monthly Gross Income Standard for Eligibility for the CAP Waiver**

Effective January 1, 2001, the monthly gross income standard for the CAP Waiver is \$1,590. An individual whose monthly gross income is less than \$1,590 meets the income requirement for eligibility for the division's Community Alternatives Program (CAP) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver.

#### **VI. AFH/Medicaid Personal Care Client Participation (Attachment C)**

The basic rates for adult family homes (AFHs) are:

	<u>AFH Basic Rate</u>	<u>AFH Participation*</u>
MSA Counties**	\$ 482.13	\$ 482.13
Non-MSA Counties***	\$ 483.99	\$ 483.99

\*For someone who receives SSI and has no other income.

**\*\*MSA Counties are:** Benton, Clark, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima.

**\*\*Non-MSA counties are all counties not listed as a MSA county.**

DDD clients receiving Medicaid Personal Care (MPC) in an AFH due to SSI, the CAP Waiver, or DAC should **not** participate at more than the AFH basic rate (i.e., clients receiving Medicaid Personal Care should not participate towards the cost of their Medicaid Personal Care services).

Participation should be calculated against the AFH personal care add-on hours as well as the room and board (basic rate) for:

- 1) Non-SSI AFH residents who receive MPC services and
- 2) Whose Categorically Needy ("CN") Medicaid eligibility is based on the cost of their personal care add-on hours (i.e., their income is too high to qualify outright for the CN program, so the cost of their personal care add-on hours is added to the CN income standard to increase that eligibility standard for residents of AFHs).
- 3) Participation for this group of individuals should be computed according to Attachment C.

## **VII. ARC/Medicaid Personal Care Client Participation (Attachment D)**

The basic rates for adult residential centers (ARCs) are:

	ARC Basic Rate (Daily)	ARC Basic Rate Monthly*	ARC Participation**
MSA Counties***	\$ 24.26	\$ 737.99	
Non-MSA Counties****	\$ 24.29	\$ 738.90	
Area I Counties*****			\$ 517.06
Area II Counties*****			\$ 496.61

\*Based on a 30.42-day month, the average number of days in a month in CY01.

**\*\*Based on a 30.42-day month, this is the participation for individuals who receive SSI and have no other income.**

**\*\*\*MSA Counties are:** Benton, Clark, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima.

**\*\*\*\*Non-MSA counties are all counties not listed as a MSA county.**

\*\*\*\*\*Area I counties are: King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston.

\*\*\*\*\*Area II counties are all counties not listed as an Area county.

DDD clients receiving Medicaid Personal Care (MPC) in an ARC due to SSI, the CAP Waiver, or DAC should **not** participate at more than the ARC basic rate (i.e., clients receiving Medicaid Personal Care should not participate towards the cost of their Medicaid Personal Care services).

Participation should be calculated against the ARC personal care add-on hours as well as the room and board (basic rate) for:

- 1) Non-SSI ARC residents who receive MPC services and
- 2) Whose Categorically Needy ("CN") Medicaid eligibility is based on the cost of their personal care add-on hours (i.e., their income is too high to qualify outright for the CN program, so the cost of their personal care add-on hours is added to the CN income standard to increase that eligibility standard for residents of ARCs). Participation for this group of individuals should be computed according to Attachment D.

For more detail on how to compute client participation, please see Division Policy 6.06 in Chapter 6 of the Division's Policy Manual. Please call me at (360) 902-8476 if you have any questions. Thank you.

#### Attachments

cc: Field Services Administrators  
CAP Coordinators  
Regional Business Managers  
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Pat Buker  
Colleen Erskine  
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